

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 02470 100337Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4561

UNCLAS DACCA 2470

E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS : ETRD, BG

SUBJECT : GSP: FIRST YEAR REVIEW: BANGLADESH

REF : STATE 067507

1. EMBOFF VISITED S. D. AHMED, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EXPORT PROMOTION BUREAU, AS A FOLLOW UP TO EARLIER INQUIRIES CONCERNING THE SUBJECT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF GSP IN BANGLADESH. AHMED FELT THAT ONE YEAR WAS TOO SHORT A PERIOD OF TIME TO EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF GSP OF BANGLADESH. HE HAD ACCESS TO TRADE STATISTICS ONLY UP TO JULY OF 1976. GOING THROUGH THE STATISTICS QUICKLY HE FELT THAT IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY CHANGE IN THE STATISTICS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS (JANUARY-JUNE) OF '76 OVER THE SECOND SIX MONTHS (JULY-DECEMBER) OF 1975, IT HAD BEEN TOWARD A DECREASE IN THE EXPORT OF THOSE ITEMS TO THE U.S. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT COMPARING TWO NONEQUIVALENT SIX MONTHS PERIODS MIGHT NOT BE A FAIR TEST OF GSP'S IMPACT.

2. AHMED COMMENTED THAT THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1976 WERE PROBABLY NOT A GOOD GUIDE TO THE OVERALL IMPACT

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PAGE 02 DACCA 02470 100337Z

OF GSP BECAUSE OF THAT TIME HAD BEEN CONSUMED BY THE BDG IN THE CLERICAL TASKS INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM AND IN APPOINTING SUPERVISORY OFFICIALS IN THE RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

3. AHMED HAD RECENTLY BEEN ASKED BY HIS OWN GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT A SURVEY OF THE GSP BENEFITS PROVIDED BY

ALL FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. HE PROMISED TO SHARE THE RESULTS WHEN OBTAINED.

4. WE REGRET OUR TARDY RESPONSE TO REFTEL. AS MIGHT BE GLEANED FROM THE PRECEDING IT APPEARS THAT GSP HAS NOT YET HAD MUCH IF ANY MEASURED IMPACT ON BANGLADESH. UNTIL LOCAL OFFICIALS AND EXPORTERS SHOW MORE KNOWLEDGE AND ENERGY, WE DON'T EXPECT GSP WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO PRODUCE TRADE EXPANSION OR MANY NOW INVESTMENTS.

5. MUCH OF THE DATA WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT ALSO APPEARS OF LIMITED VALUE. SEE FOR EXAMPLE THE ATTACHMENT FOR BANGLADESH TO THE MARCH 23 MEMO FROM NEA/RA TO ALL NEA COUNTRY DIRECTORATES. THE MEMO INCLUDES SEWING MACHINE PARTS AMONG THE USGSP IMPORTS FROM BANGLADESH. SINGER PRODUCES SOME SEWING MACHINE PARTS IN BANGLADESH FOR ITS LOCAL SEWING MACHINE ASSEMBLY. THE FIRM'S CHAIRMAN, HOWEVER, ASSURES US THAT NO ONE IN BANGLADESH EXPORTS SEWING MACHINE PARTS.

MASTERS

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